

Technical Assistance Exchange Newsletter May 19, 2010

A Weekly Update for Aging & Disability Resource Centers, Community Living Programs, Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Programs, and their Partners

Contact us with questions about this newsletter: adrc-tae@lewin.com or 703.269.5554

Please visit [the TAE website](#) for a text version of this newsletter.

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Featured Online Training

The Art of Options Counseling

Options Counseling (OC) is a key service of ADRCs that supports informed long-term care decision-making by assisting individuals and families with understanding their strengths, needs, preferences and unique situations. Options counseling helps to translate this knowledge into support strategies

The Delaware ADRC is Now a Law



On May 14th, Governor Markell of Delaware signed HB 351/SA 1 into law which establishes the Delaware Aging and Disability Resource Center within the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities of the Department of Health and Social Services, replacing the current Elder Care Information and Support System for Delaware Families. The Governor's Office will be releasing a press release shortly to spread the word about the new ADRC.

Quality-Based Payment System Generates Home Care Savings

A small scale Medicare program testing a home care payment system based on measures of quality and efficiency generated savings in three out of four regions in the country.

Home health agencies subject to the payment system generated a total of \$15 million in Medicare savings, the agency said in the May 6 news release. Officials determined whether or not savings occurred by comparing spending associated with home health agencies subject to the measures to that associated with a control group of agencies that were not rated on quality and efficiency.

and plans. This training is intended for staff who directly receive and respond to inquiries about long-term care options from consumers and families, and although the context is the ADRC, other programs will benefit from the curriculum. The course defines options counseling, outlines key competencies needed to offer options counseling, and describes how it is operationalized in different organizations. For example, it describes how a variety of organizations have integrated options counseling into their established array of services. It demonstrates best practice through case scenarios, and presenters will discuss how to address challenges encountered.

To view the recorded webinar please visit the The "[The Art of Options Counseling](#)" training page under [Events](#)> [Training](#), and download the video under the "Resources" section.

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The savings were shared by 166 home health agencies that either rated in the top 20 percent of their state on the quality and efficiency measures or made significant improvements in quality of care. A total of 59 percent of agencies subject to the measures qualified for higher payments funded by the savings.

Read the full article [here](#).

Upcoming Grantee TA Calls

Veterans Health Administration Discusses VDHCBs

This call will focus on the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services (VDHCBs) initiative. Representatives from the Veterans Health Administration will discuss VA's vision and expectations for VDHCBs, the new VDHCBs operating guidelines, and other policy issues related to program development and implementation. This call will be of greatest interest to state officials, AAA staff, and VA Medical Centers staff involved in the planning, development, and implementation of new VDHCBs programs - especially those individuals who were unable to attend the national conference in Alexandria in February.

We have added a webinar component to this call. However, most information will be presented over the phone.

- Date: Thursday, May 20th, 2010
- Time: 3:00pm - 4:30 pm EDT
- **NEW Webinar Component**
 - Webinar ID: 622-892-352
 - [Register for the webinar](#)
- Teleconference:
 - Toll-free number: (866) 254-5936
 - Passcode: 157618

Starting Financial Management Services in CLP & VDHCBs: Strategic Considerations

This webinar will present strategies for program administrators to consider as they determine how to provide Financial Management Services in their Community Living and Veteran Directed programs. Topics will include how to decide on a model of FMS (Agency with Choice or

Fiscal/Employer Agent), whether to contract for Financial Management Services, provide them "in-house" at the AAA, or use a hybrid approach. The call will also explore two methods for procuring Financial Management Services.

Grantees who are in the process of designing the Financial Management Services portion of their program or are considering changing it should attend this webinar.

- Date: **Thursday, June 3rd, 2010**
- Time: 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm EDT
- Webinar:
 - Webinar ID: 564-317-120
 - [Register for the webinar](#)
- Teleconference: 888-844-7278, Passcode 2695542#

Rescheduled Teleconference on MDS 3.0 Section Q

**National Stakeholders Teleconference to Prepare to
Implement the New MDS 3.0 Section Q**

**Please Note: The Date and Number of
the Teleconference have Changed**

- Date: **Wednesday, May 19, 2010**
- Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern
- Call-In Number: 1.800.774.6070
- Passcode: 7729581
- Additional information will be made available through the Ascellon TA site at www.TAforMFP.com

New TAE Website Additions

New Resources from the National Consortium for Health Systems Development, a project of Health and Disability Advocates



- [Medicaid Categories for People with Disabilities-Before and After Health Care Reform](#) - The table summarizes the impact of health care reform under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Medicaid eligibility, including the Medicaid Buy-In.
- [What Medicaid Infrastructure Grants Need to Know about Health Care Reform](#) -This policy and practice brief helps to explain the expected impact of health care reform on Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities. The brief explores the potential new Medicaid enrollment dynamics MIGs need to consider as health care reform is implemented under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and the interaction between the Medicaid Buy-In and new coverage options.
- [Health Care Coverage Case Study for a Person with a Disability In 2014 And Beyond](#) - This hypothetical "case study" illustrates the health insurance options for people with disabilities that will be available when health care reform is implemented under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Upcoming CIL-NET Webinar



Get to the Core of It: Individual Advocacy

This year, CIL NET is offering a teleconference & webinar series on the four-core services of Centers for Independent Living. Taking place in five parts, the series will explore best practices and innovative approaches to the four core services: Information & Referral, Peer Support, Independent Living Skills Training, Individual Advocacy, and Systems Advocacy. Each presentation in the series will feature CIL staff and programs that are especially successful at providing excellent services to their communities.

Individual advocacy is a primary mechanism for community building and essential to protecting the civil rights of all people with disabilities. Two staff members from SKIL, Southeast Kansas Independent Living, will share their approach to introducing consumers to independent living and helping them find their voice and power as advocates. In addition to sharing their philosophy and approach, the presenters will share specific tips for connecting with all kinds of consumers, helping them navigate and fight barriers and injustice, and developing leadership and advocacy skills.

- Date: June 9, 2010
- Time: 3:00-4:30 PM EST
- [Register](#) Online
- Cost: \$75

TAE Website Tip of the Week

The TAE site now features an "AddThis" toolbar that allows users to easily bookmark and share content on the TAE site through email, Twitter, Google, Facebook, Digg, your web browser's Favorites list, and other avenues.

Give it a try! Hover your mouse over the white bar that says BOOKMARK at the top of the left-hand sidebar to expand a list of options.

Contact us anytime at adrc-tae@lewin.com for website support.

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